

Village of Los Lunas



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August 2005

Police Department Grows With The Community

Los Lunas Police Department Chief Nick Balido remembers the days when three officers and a chief were the sum total of the department for the village.

That was more than 30 years and an increase in population of many thousand ago.

In 1972 when Balido began his career as a police officer, the village population was about 1,000. Now the village is several hundred more than 10,000.

The 2005-2006 budget for the police department allocates funding for 30 officers including three detectives and the chief. Other staff includes six dispatchers as well as secretarial support.

Every two years the village council evaluates whether additional officers need to be added to the budget due to population growth.

Average response time to a call is four to five minutes, says Balido, depending on the circumstances.

If a call to 911 is placed within the village limits then the dispatcher will see the address for the call. The village runs a 24-hour dispatching operation.

Everything that comes into the department is always documented and recorded, points out Balido.

Within a year of being hired, police officers hired by the village must spend five months in Santa Fe being trained.

Training covers the criminal justice system, the law including criminal law procedures, com-



Los Lunas Police Chief Nick Balido, left, goes over a report with Sergeant Josh Perea by the officer's car in the police parking lot on West Main Street.

munications, vehicle operations, firearms, various information on patrolling, traffic enforcement/accident investigation, criminal investigation and defensive tactics/custody control.

Newly hired dispatchers are given three weeks of training. This training is provided through the NM Department of Finance and Administration with the E-911 system paying for the training.

Balido points out that Los Lunas officers are always busy as they deal with a variety of occurrences through the village.

The village's patrol officers take reports and follow up on events where they can. Right now patrol officers work twelve-hour shifts on duty with twelve hours off for three days and then get four days off.

The Criminal Investigation crew, the detectives, is mostly involved in Felony I crimes, says Balido, which

means they follow up on "more serious crime."

The village currently has one female officer. She has been with the department for two years.

Village police officers have been involved in a variety of community programs over the years including Neighborhood Watch, Bicycle Patrol, serving as School Resource Officers and working with neighborhoods and businesses.

Officers often want to reduce chronic crime conditions rather than focus on making arrests. They also want to increase the focus on crime prevention rather than addressing crimes after they happen.

Most of all, says Balido, Los Lunas police officers want to work with everyone in the community and give good service. The officers know that in return their job of keeping law and order can be a whole lot easier.

Think the Streets Look Cleaner? Here's Why!

As part of the Keep Los Lunas Beautiful project, 17 area teenagers worked four hours a day for two weeks in July cleaning up the village. Among the areas the 14-to-17-year-olds cleaned up were Morris Road, Los Lentes South, Main Street from Interstate 25 east across the Rio Grande, Lujan, Lambros, Los Cerritos and in part of Sun Ranch Village. They also cut weeds in a variety of places. Here several of the teenagers are shown around the bags of weeds and trash collected on West Main Street between Emilio Lopez



and Los Cerritos. They collected more than 348 bags of trash while they worked.

Keep Properties Clean of Weeds, Waste

Valencia County residents were still looking for the arrival of the moonsoon season when this newsletter was written. With the winter and spring's wet weather, more rain this summer isn't necessary for weeds to grow.

Village Zoning Enforcement Officer Josie Navarette reminds everyone that village ordinances say "it is unlawful for any persons to permit or cause to remain in or about his premises any solid waste, weeds, motor vehicles not in operating condition, waste water or any conglomeration

of residue thereof . . ."

In addition, "it is unlawful for any person to permit in or about his premises weeds, briars, brush or any other solid waste to become in any way hazardous or injurious to public health or obstruct pedestrian and vehicular traffic."

So be sure to take care of those weeds on your property. And when you do remember that in the village it is unlawful for any person to sweep, place, or throw, solid waste or other waste materials (and this includes any type of weed) in or upon any sidewalk, street, alley or unoccupied premises.

Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice a month in the council chambers in the administrative building on the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2005 are:

August 18

September 1 & 15 October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17 December 8 & 29

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are rescheduled so check with village officials at 839-3840 to be sure a meeting has not been changed.

The agenda will be available at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting from the bulletin board located in the lobby of the Administration Office, located at 660 Main Street NW, Los Lunas, NM; the Los Lunas Library located at 460 Main Street in Los Lunas, NM; and posted on the village website (address: www.loslunasnm.gov).

**VISIT THE
VILLAGE WEBSITE**
www.loslunasnm.gov

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

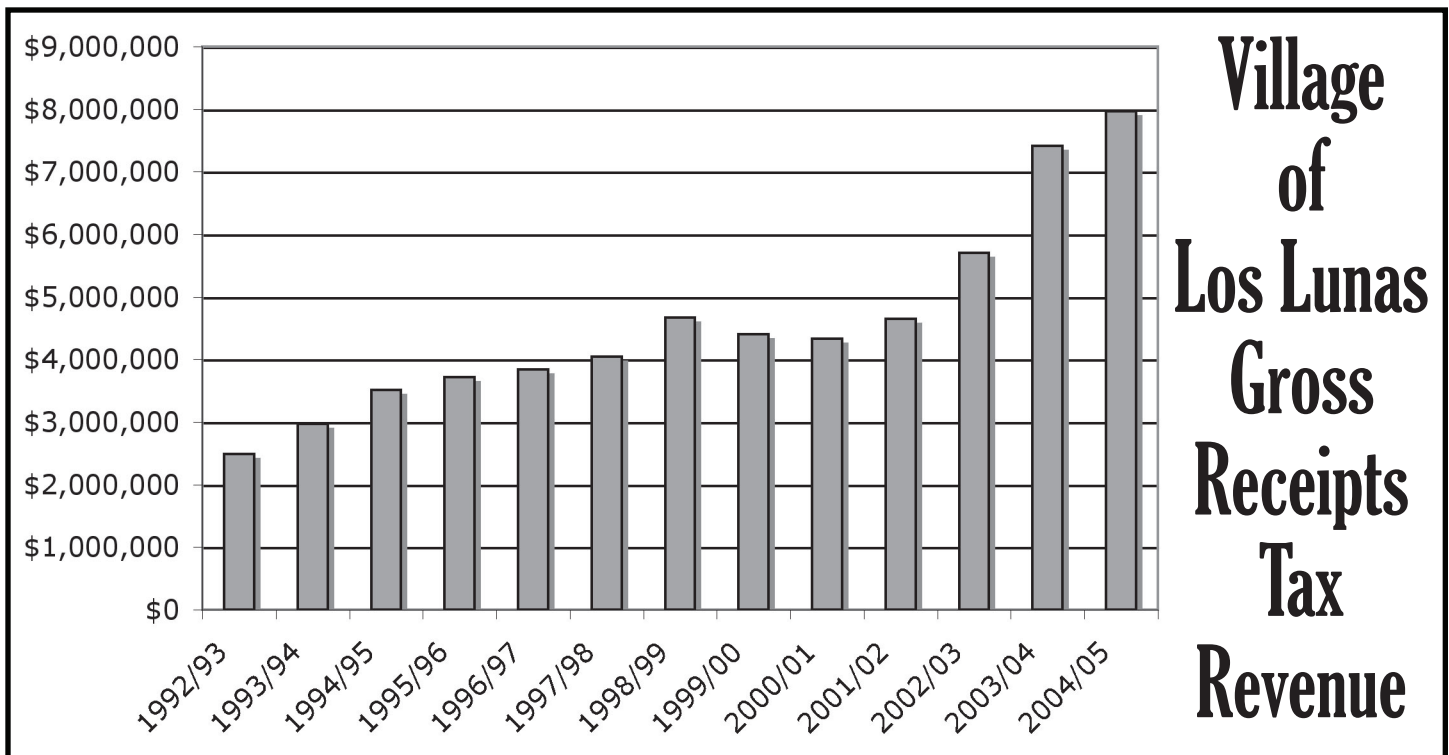
Louis F. Huning **Mayor**
Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego
Gerard Saiz Robert Vialpando

Municipal Judge Jeff Aragon

Village Administrator

Phillip Jaramillo **Master Municipal Clerk**
Chief of Police Nick Balido



Village Council Finalizes 2005-2006 Budget

The final 2005-2006 budget approved by the Los Lunas Village Council in July contained an estimated \$14.9 million in revenues with \$16.1 million in expenditures and an ending cash balance of \$3.7 million in the general fund.

The grand total for all funds including general, water/sewer, solid waste, capital projects, trust and agency funds is \$32.8 in revenues with \$36.1 in expenditures.

Police Department Allocated \$2.9 Million

The village's 2005-2006 budget allocated \$2.9 million for the police department. The majority of this, \$2.3 million, is allocated to personnel services, the salaries paid to the officers plus the corresponding expenses for employee insurance, unemployment, workmen's compensation, Social Security and retirement.

Capital outlay totals \$177,900 which will be spent for vests, computer equipment, wi-fi connectivity for police cars and other equipment.

The remaining \$454,484 will be spent on training/seminars, insurance/bonds, uniform allowance, tools/equipment, telephone, building and grounds maintenance as well as miscellaneous other items.

Trek For Trash SEPTEMBER 2005

YOU CAN HELP CLEAN LOS LUNAS

Village of Los Lunas

ditures.

General fund includes administration, judicial, community development, community services, vehicle maintenance and the police, fire, street, parks and library departments.

Capital projects include finishing the work in Luna Hills and the Transportation Building at the intersection of Courthouse and Juan Perea Roads.

Village Administrator Completes Leadership Program

Village Administrator Phillip Jaramillo has completed the Leadership New Mexico 2004-2005 Core Program class, the program's ninth class.

This year Leadership New Mexico selected 37 outstanding established leaders from communities across the state to participate in an intensive program exposing them to the challenges, issues, and concerns that affect New Mexico.

The program consisted of six sessions, held over a ten-month period, and covers topics related to health and human service, economic development, education, environment and natural resources, government, crime and justice, and leadership.

Leadership New Mexico seeks to encourage participants to critically think through challenges facing them as leaders and in New Mexico as a whole.

REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY!

August 2005

Luna Hills Progressing; Other Projects Ongoing

Work on the Luna Hills Projects was 47 percent complete in July which means the project should be finished on its scheduled date of March 7, 2006.

Sewer lines were connected on the following streets: Pecos, Coplen, Socorro, Breech, Capital and Drake with gutter, sidewalk and paving in place. Rio Grande still needs sidewalks.

Sewer work is continuing on Canal, Hillside and Sagebrush.

Work remains to be done on installing sewer lines on Valley View and Crest View.

Tentatively scheduled for repaving this year as part of the village's cooperative funding are Don Carlos, Calle Quieta, Calle Margarita, Balboa, Calle Don Demetria, Sandoval, Simpson and Orchard. These streets are in the design process for the work.

Lift Station Number Four in Carson Park has been completed. This station facilitates the movement of sewer waste from across the Rio Grande to the waste water treatment plant in the south end of Carson Park.

The interceptor line and lift station near Don Pasqual and Highline are near completion. These will serve the newer subdivisions off Highline and Colibri which are off Los Cerritos.

**For Your Convenience,
the Village of Los Lunas now
accepts utility payments at
First State Bank in Los Lunas**

Chavez, Wroten Honored

A twenty-year police veteran and an outgoing Planning and Zoning Board member were honored by the village council in July.

J.R. Wroten, a lieutenant in the police department, retired after twenty years of service. Councilman Gerard Saiz commended Wroten, "To stick it out from Day One to retirement is amazing."

Police Chief Nick Balido wished Wroten "the best" in whatever he does the rest of his life.

Leroy Chavez was honored for serving five years on the village's Planning and Zoning board.

The village council thanked him for the sacrifices his family made so he could prepare for and attend meetings.

Garbage Pickup Days

The village 2005 garbage pickup days are:

HOLIDAY	REGULAR TRASH	WILL BE
OBSERVED	PICKUP DAY	PICKED UP ON
Labor Day	Monday Sept. 5	Friday Sept. 2
Columbus Day	Monday Oct. 7	Friday Oct. 7
Veterans Day	Friday Nov. 11	Thursday Nov. 10
Thanksgiving	Thursday Nov. 24	Wednesday Nov. 23
Day after		
Thanksgiving	Friday Nov. 25	Monday Nov. 28
Christmas		
Holiday	Monday Dec. 26	Friday Dec. 23
New Year's	Monday Jan. 2 (2006)	Friday Dec. 30

**When You See This Sign
With The Flashing Light
DRIVE AT 15
MILES AN HOUR
School Starts Again in August
KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

